

7-5-65

has / NYN  
Pinder

VAB LUS -  
L-04-65

LAOTIAN TERRITORIES OCCUPIED  
BY NORTH VIETNAM

[Following is a translation of an unsigned  
article in the French-language newspaper  
Laos Presse, 5 July 1965, pages C-1, C-2.]

Hanoi authorities are once again attempting to persuade others that certain frontier regions belonging for centuries to Laos, and recently occupied brutally by the army of the Democratic Republic, actually belong to North Vietnam. Hanoi has issued maps deliberately and impudently retracing the official border. Broadcast propaganda supports this new violation of international agreements, in order to justify it in the light of public opinion, if such a term still has some meaning for North Vietnam communists. They have even forwarded official protests to our Government, the height of hypocrisy, to cast the blame on "imperialists and their lackeys" for violations of imaginary frontiers. In short, North Vietnam communists pursue their war-like adventure, begun 20 years ago, without truce or mercy, trampling on the most solemn texts, treaties and agreements.

What is the exact question?

1) To our knowledge the oldest treaty tracing the frontier from Muong to Tchepone dates from 1364. It was signed by the King of Lane Xang (the name of the Kingdom of Laos at the time) and the King of Annam. Lao-Bao was acknowledged as Laotian territory and the frontier was shown by the line indicating the partition of waters.

2) King Souliga Vongsa (1637-1694), the ally of the King of Annam, Le-Duy-Ky, signed a treaty with the latter specifying that "all populations dwelling in houses having pile foundations and verandas will be known as subjects of the King of Vientiane and all those dwelling in houses without pile foundations or verandas belong to Annam." This was a just decision stipulating that all the mountain people of the western slope of the Annam Range were Laotians. Thus, throughout the centuries, the borders of Laos were defined far to the East of the present frontier.

3) Two delegations met in Hue in 1914, headed respectively by French governors of the time in Annam and Laos, in keeping with a decree issued on December 27, 1913, by the Governor-General; the decree called for a Commission charged with fixing the boundaries of Annam and Laos. On March 21, 1914 the Commission drew up an official report; accordingly the Governor-General, by decree of October 12, 1916, determined the frontier between the provinces of Quang Tri, Annam,

and Savannakhet, Laos. It was as follows: "The frontier begins at the summit 1221 and continues, from North to South, 115°78' until arriving at the signal 1020.82 m [?] of Dong Ta Puc." It was a definite case of delimitation, although the same decree elsewhere stated that delimitation for other regions would be dealt with later.

4) Finally, the most recent proof that the frontier has incontestable value is established by a reference to the Laos-Vietnam frontier in the international agreement signed in Geneva in 1954. There was no possible doubt about it for the participants of the Geneva Conference. The chosen map was the one established by the Geographic Institute. It shows that the Laos-Vietnam frontier is located North and East of the villages illegally occupied at the present by North Vietnam.

Therefore, His Excellency Pham Van Dong, who signed the 1954 Geneva agreements for the North Vietnam Government, unreservedly acknowledged the frontiers revealed by that map. So what are the arguments behind North Vietnam's pretensions? A quick look at the historic pseudo-arguments advanced by the Hanoi authorities leads to the following conclusions: (a) no recent document cited refers to the precise problem of the frontier, (b) Hanoi takes pains not to mention the first international agreement (the 1954 Geneva agreements) which included the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, (c) administrative acts referring to international law have no value unless

regarded as subsidiary testimonies in the absence of treaties. Thus, the arguments of the "Hanoi" authorities crumble in themselves and have no justification other than that of bad faith. The regions of Tarua, Tapeng, Tapai, Saria/? and [illegible] are Laotian and we intend that they remain so.

What does Hanoi definitely want?

It simply wants to prolong its war in keeping with its views on the future of Vietnam and the people of Indochina. Anything will work as long as it achieves its ends. Lies, propaganda, violent interpretation of texts and treaties, one-way dialecticism, pacific and subversive protests, co-existence and support of "national liberation" wars, the entire scale of revolutionary tactics is activated in the interest of the final victory of communism.

North Vietnamese: Laotians are not duped by these schemes. Laotians understand that the entire matter of the frontier, springing up from nowhere, is nothing more than a vicissitude in your expansionist scheme. But if a little race of peaceful people won't accept it, you impose your program by force. Nevertheless, Laotians can offer you some wise advice and counsel you to act with dignity. Stop while it's still time.

**Page Denied**

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied